

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1-14 are pending, in which claims 2 and 15-17 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9 and 11-14 are currently amended. No new matter is introduced.

The Office Action mailed May 16, 2006 rejected claims 1, 3-6, 8-11 and 13-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by *Matyas et al.* (US 5,200,999).

Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 2, 7 and 12 are allowable if rewritten in independent form.

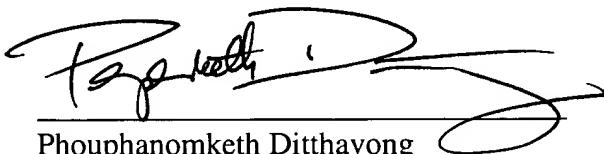
To expedite prosecution, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 13 and 14 to include allowable features of dependent claim 2 (now canceled). Also, claims 7 and 12 have been recast in independent form.

Therefore, the present application, as amended, overcomes the rejection of record and is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested. If any unresolved issues remain, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney at (703) 425-8508 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

DITTHAVONG & MORI, P.C.

8/16/06
Date



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